

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD, EGEN

SUBJECT: DRAFT UNCTAD V AGENDA

REF: (A) GENEVA 12691 AND (B) GENEVA 12740

PARIS PASS DAS MEISSNER

1. DEPARTMENT FINDS UNCTAD V DRAFT AGENDA ABOUT AS
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EXPECTED. ISSUE PAPERS PREPARED FOR USDEL DEAL WITH ALL
AGENDA ITEMS IN THE DRAFT. WE ANTICIPATE FULL DISCUSSION
AMONG GROUP B DELEGATIONS BEFORE TDB CONSIDERS UNCTAD V
AGENDA. DEPARTMENT REQUESTS MISSION CONVEY THE FOLLOWING
USG FIRST IMPRESSIONS TO THE GROUP B MEETING.

2. ITEM 2, CONTAINS SEVERAL VAGUE AND DANGEROUS PHRASES

ESPECIALLY "APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATIONS, FOR EVOLVING CONCERTED INTERNATIONAL ACTION" AND "NEED FOR FURTHER EVOLUTION IN THE RULES AND PRINCIPLES GOVERNING INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS." AS THESE PHRASES OPEN DOOR TO ENTIRE NIEO QUESTION, WE SHOULD SEEK TO NARROW THE FOCUS OF THE AGENDA ITEM.

3. ITEM 3(B), REFERENCES TO PROCESSING, MARKETING, AND TRANSPORTATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE INTEGRATED PROGRAM

MAY BE AN EFFORT TO EXPAND THE SCOPE OF UNCTAD COMMODITY DISCUSSIONS BEYOND ACCEPTABLE LIMITS. U.S. DOES NOT CONSIDER THESE OBJECTIVES TO BE APPROPRIATE FOR ACTION UNDER THE INTEGRATED PROGRAM, ALTHOUGH WE DO SUPPORT THE IDEA THAT INTERNATIONAL ACTION ON "OTHER MEASURES" FOR THE INTEGRATED PROGRAM COMMODITIES MAY NEED TO BE IMPROVED THROUGH SUITABLE CHANNELS. ITEM 3(A) SHOULD BE CHANGED TO "PREPARATORY WORK AND NEGOTIATIONS IN PROGRESS" TO REFLECT FACT THAT MANY COMMODITY DISCUSSIONS ARE NOT IN FACT NEGOTIATIONS.

4. ITEM 4, WE SHOULD SEEK TO ADD THE QUESTIONS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRY PROTECTIONISM.

5. ITEM 5, WE SHOULD SEEK TO ADD SUBJECT OF GRADUATION OF ADVANCED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.
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6. ITEM 6(A) SHOULD BE FOCUSED ON DISCUSSION NOT NEGOTIATION OR DECLARATION. MONETARY ISSUES ARE BEST LEFT TO IMF. 6(A)(I) SHOULD BE MORE GENERAL ALONG LINES OF "A HEALTHY WORLD ECONOMY." 6(A)(II), WE DO NOT ACCEPT THAT INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM SHOULD BE SHAPED MERELY TO MEET ARTIFICIAL DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES/TARGETS.

7. ITEM 6(B), "NEED" FOR SUCH A "FRAMEWORK" IS ANOTHER ISSUE BEST DEALT WITH IN IMF. WE COULD NOT ACCEPT 6(B)(II) IMPLICATION THAT A B/P SUPPORT FACILITY SHOULD BE A RE-SOURCE TRANSFER MECHANISM. WE WOULD HOPE TO SEE THIS ITEM DROPPED. ITEM 6(B)(III) SHOULD INCLUDE INVESTMENT CLIMATE AS WELL AS PRIVATE CAPITAL FLOWS O THAT LDC ACTIONS IN THIS FIELD COULD ALSO BE EXAMINED.

8. WE DO NOT LIKE THE PHRASING OF AGENDA ITEM 6(B)(IV). THE WORDS "ELABORATION OF A MULTILATERAL FRAMEWORK FOR DEBT RENEGOTIATIONS" COULD FOCUS ATTENTION ON INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS OF DEBT RENEGOTIATION. THIS IS, HOWEVER, JUST ONE OF MANY ASPECTS OF "FEATURES." WE WOULD THEREFORE PREFER THE AGENDA ITEM TO READ "FEATURES TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE IN

FUTURE OPERATIONS RELATING TO DEBT PROBLEMS." (NOTE: OVEREMPHASIS ON THE INSTITUTIONS ASPECTS OF DEBT RENEGOTIATION COULD ISOLATE THE USG WITHIN GROUP B GIVEN OUR PRESENT POLICY OF NORMALLY RESCHEDULING DEBT ONLY IN THE FRAMEWORK OF A CREDITOR CLUB.

9. WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE PHRASE "AND FURTHER ACTION TO ALLEVIATE THE CRITICAL DEBT PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES" DELETED FROM AGENDA ITEM 6(C). IN FIRST PLACE, WE DO NOT WANT RTA VIEWED IN THE CONTEXT OF A RESPONSE TO CRITICAL DEBT PROBLEMS. IT IS, AS IS CLEAR FROM THE LANGUAGE OF THE TDB RESOLUTION, AN AID MEASURE RELATED TO DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS. IN THE SECOND PLACE, THERE SHOULD BE NO PRESUMPTION THAT "FURTHER ACTION" IS TO BE CONSIDERED. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO A SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE IN A SEPARATE AGENDA ITEM WHICH CALLED FOR A REVIEW OF THE OVERALL LDC DEBT SITUATION AS LONG AS THE LANGUAGE AVOIDED ANY PRESUMPTION OF FURTHER ACTION.

10. ITEM 7, QUESTION REFERENCE TO "FUTURE ACTION" IN 7(A), ESPECIALLY IF THIS WOULD IMPLY NEGOTIATIONS OF UNCTAD V ON SPECIFIC ISSUES WHICH MAY REMAIN UNRESOLVED IN THE CODE OF CONDUCT OR THE REVISION OF THE PARIS CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY. CONCERNING 7(A)(I) BELIEVE UNCTAD ROLE SHOULD BE LIMITED TO REVIEW OF NEGOTIATIONS AND CONSIDERATION OF WHAT FURTHER WORK, IF ANY, SHOULD BE DONE ON A DETAILED CODE OR LESS AMBITIOUS DOCUMENT IF AGREEMENT NOT REACHED BY UNCTAD V IN THIS EXERCISE. WE SHOULD PRESS FOR DELETION OF 7(A)(II) ON THE GROUNDS INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY QUESTIONS ARE BETTER DEALT WITH IN WIPO THAN UNCTAD, BUT AS A LAST RESORT CAN CONCUR IN A STATUS REPORT ON WHAT UNCTAD IS DOING IN THIS AREA, AS FOR EXAMPLE, UNCTAD GROUP OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS ON THE ROLE OF THE PATENT SYSTEM IN THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. 7(C) "REVERSE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY" REFERENCE TO BRAIN DRAIN IS AN ISSUE WE WOULD PREFER TO AVOID AT UNCTAD. IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, WE SHOULD LIMIT AGENDA TO A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF BRAIN DRAIN QUESTION AND AVOID CONSIDERATION OF SPECIFIC MEASURES SUCH AS A "GLOBAL COMPENSATORY SCHEME." SECOND PART OF 7(C) SOUNDS LIKE TCDC AND MIGHT BETTER BE CONSIDERED IN UNDP. IF MATTER MUST BE CONSIDERED IN UNCTAD, SUGGEST IT MIGHT MORE APPROPRIATELY COME UNDER ECDC. WE ARE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN ITEM 7(B) AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER CLARIFICATION OF SECRETARIAT THINKING ON THIS CONCEPT. ALSO BELIEVE THAT ADDITION OF SEPARATE SUB-ITEM ON UNCTAD'S TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SERVICE--ENDORSED BY U.S. AT UNCTAD IV--WOULD BE USEFUL. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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11. REQUEST ECON MIN REPORT SIGNIFICANT GROUP B PROPOSALS
AND/OR REACTIONS TO DRAFT AGENDA AND TO OUR COMMENTS.
USDEL SHOULD BE ABLE TO CAREFULLY CONSIDER DETAILS OF
AGENDA ONCE IN GENEVA. CHRISTOPHER

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